

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 58

July 2011

No. 7



Calendar

Fri., June 24	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> in PO lobby;	Fri., Aug. 26	Garrett Park Elementary open house at Grosvenor Elementary for students/parents to meet teachers, 2–3 pm
Sat., June 25	Large item pickup		
Fri., July 1	Town BBQ: end of fiscal year celebration, Town Hall, 1 pm (see pp 3, 6)	Mon., Aug. 29	Start of public school for the year
Sat., July 2	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Pooch Parade, 4 pm (see p 5)	Sat., Sept. 3	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm
Mon., July 4	4th of July activities (see pp 4, 5, poster); Art at Penn Place: Suzi Gifford (see p 2)	Mon., Sept. 5	Labor Day; no trash pickup; pool closes
Sat., July 9	Adult party at the pool, 7 pm	Fri., Sept. 9	Film Society: <i>Not One Less</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7:15, film 8 pm
Sun., July 10	Grosvenor Market Day, pool, 12–2 pm	Mon., Sept. 12	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Mon., July 11	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Tues., Sept. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm (see p 6); deadline for next <i>Bugle</i> , 4 pm
Thurs., July 21	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Fri., Sept. 23	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> at the PO
Sat., Aug. 6	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm	Sun., Sept. 25	Newcomers' Welcome, Citizens Assoc., Town Hall, 3–5 pm
Sat., Aug. 20	Annual family crab feast, pool, 4 pm	Wed., Sept. 28	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBA)

A Wide-Ranging Council Meeting

The Council meeting on June 13 started off with a large number of residents in attendance, representing several groups with business before the Council. As the issues were dealt with, the audience gradually dwindled. The meeting began with a long hearing on a request for variances at 4700 Waverly Avenue. In this case, the house is on a small corner lot and had required variances to allow it to be built in the first place in 1963. Accordingly, as the setback requirements are now even more stringent than they were when the house was built, any kind of addition to the house would require a further variance. The Council heard from Harry Gordon of the Setback Advisory Committee and Nancy Schwartz of the Historic Preservation Committee, both of whom presented reports favorable to

the issuance of the variances. After much discussion, the Council voted to continue the hearing, postponing a decision until after it could receive additional information from the Setback Advisory Committee concerning the status of other small lots and corner lots in town. Although two Councilmembers were prepared to approve the variances on the spot, others had concerns about the effect of setting a precedent in this case. The Council asked that the information be provided quickly so that it could reach a decision as soon as possible.

The Council heard a presentation from Gerilee Bennett on the Nursery School/Community Center project. She mentioned the previous day's

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groundbreaking ceremony (see p 7), saying that the renovation is due to be completed at the end of October, and invited town representatives to visit the site regularly. She also inquired about help arranging for access to water for the site, the lack of which was unforeseen. Councilmember Schulp said he had contacted Holy Cross on the subject but had not yet been successful in getting an answer.

Bonnie Tyler then spoke on behalf of the Senior Citizens Steering Committee, giving a brief description of the committee's activities and expressing appreciation for the town's support for Aging in Place, a high priority for the town's seniors. Florence Gootenberg described the committee's efforts at outreach—regular calls and visits—to seniors and others not able to get out by themselves. She asked that any who knew of neighbors who might appreciate such outreach to contact Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office. The committee also maintains a list of volunteers willing to drive seniors to do errands, go to appointments, and so on.

Marian Green presented the Archives Advisory Committee's report to the Town Council, which included extensive descriptions of activities and plans, as well as a request for support, including funding to buy computer equipment. The Council commended the work of the committee and expressed support for the request.

A resident then complained to the Council about being denied, for safety reasons, permits to install two driveways on Oxford Street, having been allowed a permit for a driveway on Kenilworth. He considered this illogical, as he judged the driveway on Kenilworth more potentially hazardous than the two proposed for Oxford. According to the Town Clerk/Administrator, the town was required to permit the driveway on Kenilworth, but had the option to deny the Oxford requests, which are considered hazardous because of the school pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Councilmember Mandel offered to accompany the resident to look over the area in question and collect more information for the Council.

In his report, the Mayor informed the Council that all easements for the school renovation had been settled except for one, concerning a sewer on the north side of Oxford. According to the Mayor, WSSC was not willing to include tree preservation elements in the easement, so he was working to persuade the Board of Education to take ownership of the sewer, so that the Board could deal with WSSC, and tree preservation requirements would apply by virtue of the town's pre-existing agreements with the Board.

In Councilmembers' reports, Beth Irons reported on the Land Use Forum that took place on May 25, attended by 35 or 40 people (see Citizens Association News, p 4). The presentations are to be posted on the town Web site, and it has

been suggested that the Citizens Association hold a followup session after people have had a chance to study the presentations. It is planned to incorporate some of the Land Use Task Force recommendations into an ordinance for Council consideration over the summer, while others require further study.

Councilmember Petito reported on the recommendations of the Parks and Open Space Committee regarding the replacement of the fence at the Cambria Tennis Courts.

Finally, the Council heard an update from the Mayor on capital projects (sidewalks and drainage projects), agreed to cancel the August Council meeting, passed a Local Government Insurance Trust Resolution (required by the town's insurer), voted to introduce an ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2012 capital budget, and discussed budget transfers, the Town Administrator's monthly financial report, and plans for a possible work session later in the month. By this point, the audience was down to single digits, and the meeting adjourned.

Barbara Collier

Art at Penn Place

The work of Suzi Gifford will be on display at the Penn Place Art Space beginning July 4. Suzi studied fine art during high school with the Somerset Art Association and continued her studies at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, where she received her BFA. Inspired by the Golden Age illustrators of children's books, Suzi began her art career as an illustrator, and was employed by a national organization whose mission was to bring awareness to issues of cultural diversity, as well as race and gender equity, in the public schools. Suzi also taught classes to children and adults at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and privately, and she has participated in mural painting projects throughout Washington, D.C. Suzi currently creates art in acrylic, colored pencil, and oil pastel, and hand-paints furniture, by commission.

Suzi and her husband Bob have lived in Garrett Park since 1991, during which time she raised her son Ian, tended her perennial garden, and pursued her interest in art. She enjoys teaching art to seniors.

Bert Zbar

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Be safe and secure. Every year with the advent of warmer weather, we see increases in the number of fraudulent solicitations for business (landscaping, window cleaning, and the like) by individuals going door to door. Please, do not open your door to strangers, especially if you are in your home alone. Any legitimate solicitor will have a Montgomery County permit, which you should ask to see. If anyone makes you feel unsafe, call 911; if you see suspicious activity, call the police nonemergency number: 301-279-8000. Check the town Web site for up-to-date information, detailed advice, and additional police contact information.

Summer traffic. With summer here and school out, there will be more people, especially children, walking around town—many going to and from the swimming pool and Cambria Park. Along Clermont Avenue running down the hill and up again to Montrose Avenue, it is easy to gain speed once you have passed over the speed bump. So drivers need to be careful here, as this is the main route to the pool for residents on the north side of town.

Street sweeping. The town's streets will be swept on Wednesday, June 29 (rain date June 30). Please make every effort to park off the street; use the pool parking lot, if needed. This will allow

for the best possible sweep, making the town as pretty as possible for the Fourth of July parade.

Large item collection. There will be a large item collection Saturday, June 25.

Trash and recycling. Check the town Web site for complete information. If Monday is a holiday, recycling will be collected on Tuesday, trash on Thursday, and yard waste on the next Monday.

Yard waste. Please remember to bundle your yard waste or place it in paper bags. Large limbs, sod, dirt, or stones are not collected. After a storm when there is widespread tree damage throughout the town, the maintenance staff will collect and chip branches brought to the roadside. Please place them butt-end out and not higgledy-piggledy in a pile. This will make it much easier for the crew. However, a private contractor must deal with any major limb-fall or tree loss on your property.

"We Survived the Fiscal Year" barbecue. The town staff invites residents and friends to our annual barbecue, celebrating another successful year in Garrett Park. The date: Friday, July 1. The time: 1 pm until we run out of food or folks to feed. The place: Town Hall. Come hungry!

As always, the Town Office will assist you in any way possible.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

GPES

Our year at the Grosvenor Elementary holding school has ended. End of the year festivities are over, teachers are finished with their course plans, and the office staff is planning for September. Kindergarten Orientation brought 70 new students for next year, but it is expected that more will enroll over the summer.

The staff gave Mrs. Stembel a bang-up retirement party on June 3, and Mrs. Means-Harris was feted on the last day of school, June 16. She will be going to Washington Grove Elementary School to be a principal intern. Then she will have completed everything needed to become a full-time principal somewhere. Ms. Monique Godfrey will become a principal intern with us for the 2011–2012 school year.

Preliminary research findings made by Gallup, Inc., found that Garrett Park Elementary surpassed the other 36 MCPS schools participating in a survey of the level of employee engagement. The idea is that a high level of employee engagement results in better student progress.

Construction of the new school building is on schedule, with the plan for the staff to move during the winter break of 2011. Currently our school day starts at 8:45 am and ends at 3:20 pm. When we move back to Garrett Park, the school hours will probably revert to the old hours of 8:30 am to 3:05 pm.

Dates to remember: New Parent Welcome on August 25 at 7 pm, followed by a Kindergarten Parent Meeting; open house for students on Friday, August 26, from 2 to 3 pm; Kindergarten Play Date on Sunday, August 28, at the holding school playground, for all incoming kindergarten students; and first day of school on Monday, August 29.

Part-time work will be available for the 2011–2012 school year for substitute lunch/recess aides. The pay is \$13.88 an hour. If interested, call Mrs. Georgatsos, administrative secretary, at 301-571-6920 for more information. She will tell you how to get on the MCPS payroll.

Services for Seniors

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- Dressing
- Transferring

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Citizens Association News

The CA hosted the Garrett Park Land Use Forum on May 25. Members of the Land Use Task Force (LUTF) and the Town Council reviewed the purpose and process of the LUTF and presented visuals to help in understanding the specific recommendations. The meeting was an open forum, and the attendees were highly engaged in questioning and commenting on LU concepts, recommendations, and implications. An update on Montgomery County's zoning efforts and how they might affect GP was also provided.

The LUTF and the CA encourage all to visit the "Consideration of Land Use Recommendations for Garrett Park" page on the town's Web site for the LUTF findings and recommendations, detail on the background on land use regulation in GP, and the county zoning effort.

The CA announced that Barbara Shidler will be GP's first Poet Laureate. We congratulate her and look forward to enjoying her compositions!

Upcoming events: July 4th. Thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions for the theme for Garrett Park's 2011 July 4 parade. The selected theme is "Something Sweet."

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 7:30 am Fun Run registration at Penn Place parking lot (all ages)
- 8:00 am 2-mile fun run/walk begins
- 9:45 am Register for parade at Oxford and Kenilworth. All cars need to come down Montrose, turn right on Oxford, and line up on Oxford.
- 10:30 am Drop off pies for GP Pie Throwdown at Waverly Park (see p 5 for details on this new July 4th event!)
- 10:30 am Parade steps off
- 10:45 am GP Pie Throwdown: judging begins

After the parade there will be a ceremony to give awards to parade participants and winners of the pie contest. Garrett Park's own "Border State" will play original music and country rock hits, and the Citizens Association will offer for sale hot dogs, burgers, and crab cakes (and slices of the pies from the contest!). The GP Elementary School Foundation will sell soft drinks and water.

In the afternoon, the festivities continue:

- 1-4 pm Games at Garrett Park Pool
- 3 pm 18th Annual Softball Game at KenGar field, located on Beach Drive (Garrett Park vs. Garrett Park Estates)

The July 4th events require a lot of work to pull off. The Citizens Association is looking for volunteers to help. How about being a parade judge or helping to sell food after the parade? Please e-mail Kathryn Mitchell at kmitchell@audubonnaturalist.org if you would like to volunteer to judge the event. Please e-mail Leslie Bethke-Pope if you can help with registration and/or sell food after the parade.

We are in need of convertibles for use in transporting the parade dignitaries. If you have a

convertible that can be used in the parade, please contact Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com. Thank you!

Future events: Newcomers' Reception.

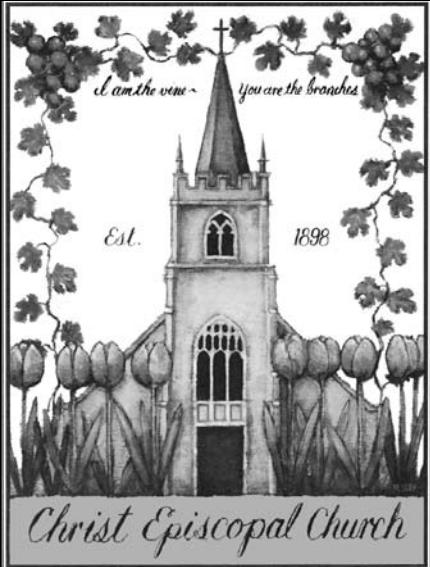
The annual Newcomers' Reception will be held Sunday, September 25, from 3 to 5 pm in the Town Hall. We extend a warm invitation to families who have moved into town over the past year. Come meet your neighbors and find out about everything that's going on in town. "Old timers" are encouraged to join us and share stories and information about Garrett Park. Light refreshments will be provided.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2011 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at box 456.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com or send a note to box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and babysitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).



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The Great GP Pie Throwdown

Calling all bakers! Join us for the first July 4th GP Pie Throwdown. Show off those baking skills by submitting a fruit pie to this contest. Entries will be judged on taste, texture, and appearance. We have some esteemed judges lined up. There will be prize categories for adults and kids.

Submit your 8-inch pie (no tarts or crisps) on July 4 by 10:30 am at the pie table at the basketball court on Waverly. Make sure your pie will withstand the outside temperature, and wrap it in plastic wrap so we can keep those pesky gnats away. Please label the bottom of your pie tin with your name and a phone number (note if you want your tin returned!), and be sure to include a recipe card so that we can share the winning bakers' culinary secrets. We will be judging the entries between 10:45 and 11 am, with a decision to the masses as soon after that as we can. So dust off those rolling pins, pick your fruit, get your kids rolling out dough, and enter the contest!

The CA will be selling pie entries at \$1 a slice and raffling off the winning pies. So bring a few dollars to taste the best of GP kitchens. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Betsy White Fund and the Citizens Association.

Please contact Lori Conlan with any questions about the pie contest.

5th Annual Pooch Parade

It's time for Garrett Park's annual "putting on the dog"! This year's parade takes place on Saturday, July 2, at 4 pm. Co-sponsored by the Women's Club and the Citizens Association, the parade kicks off at 4 pm at the intersection of Kenilworth and Strathmore Avenues, follows Waverly Avenue, and concludes at the Penn Place basketball court, where the dogs will be awarded prizes in a variety of fun categories.

Parade participants, please assemble at 9:45 am at 10906 Kenilworth (the Harrises' front lawn). No advance registration is required. Refreshments for humans and dogs will be served at the Penn Place basketball court.

Contact Jean Horan if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

Green Again

The money for our final green banner this year comes from Nancy Floreen and David Stewart. It is greatly appreciated.

We received two donations to cover September and October, and a few pledges, so there is still ample opportunity to donate. Since the cost of printing the banner pages all at once during the summer has gone down (as we are having fewer copies made), we have decided to lower the cost of banner sponsorship to \$45 an issue. If anyone would care to donate for the rest of the printing year, please send a check for \$45 (made out to the Citizens Association) to me at box 98. Thank you in advance.

Your Citizen Association dues fund this publication, as well as the 4th of July festivities, the Newcomers Welcome, and the Town Dinner. Please send dues to box 456.

Mary Moyer

Welcome to Garrett Park

David Rubenstein and Leila Holtsman have purchased the Herrle house on the corner of Kenilworth and Albemarle and moved in on April 1, along with their little daughter, who celebrated her first birthday on May 18. She has made her smiling presence well known in her short time here. We welcome you, all three!

David, who built and led the Save Darfur Coalition, is now the Executive Director of the Best Shot Foundation, dedicated to raising awareness of and preventing the diseases that kill 8.8 million children younger than five each year around the world.

Leila Holtsman is an artist creating three-dimensional works. Her current show, at the Black Rock Center for the Arts, was reviewed in the May 18 *Gazette*, and a solo show opened on June 21 at the Artisphere in Rosslyn. Leila joins the many artists in our small community whose creative spirits flow into our interactions, lifting the pleasure of living in this warm community.

Ray Lovett

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The musicale for the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship raised \$908 this year for individual lessons for a GPES 5th grade student next year. (See story, p 7.)
- ♪ Our town staff (Ted, Butch, Elizabeth, Frank, and Jose) invite everyone to their annual "We Survived the Fiscal Year" barbecue at the Town Hall on Friday, July 1. They start serving at 1 pm and go until they run out of people or food (usually around 3 to 3:30). On the menu: Butch's famous potato salad; all kinds of sau-

sage kabobs; burgers, of course (veggie burgers, too); jerk chicken; Ted's wonderful Chinese chicken wings; red beans and rice; corn; salad; chips; and ice cream. No RSVP needed, and no rain date—if it rains they'll cook in the rain and serve inside the Town Hall.

- ♪ The annual Progressive Dinner was such a success this spring that the Women's Club may hold another progressive event this fall. Would you like to work on this? Contact Jean Horan.

This Year's Graduates

We are pleased to recognize this year's crop of graduates. If we missed someone, please let us know before the September 13 deadline for the next *Bugle*.

High School graduates

Sarah Andrews: from Walter Johnson; going to the University of Maryland, College Park

Sharon Bonacorda: from Walter Johnson; may go to Montgomery College

Julia Bonner: from Bullis School with Highest Honors; going to Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Christina Folkers: from Walter Johnson; going to Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with a Multicultural Leadership Team Scholarship

Shannon Keating: Academy of the Holy Cross; going to the University of Denver

James Lillie: from Walter Johnson, was MVP in golf; going to McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland

Gabe Mandel: from Walter Johnson; going to the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York

Hannah Marsh: from Walter Johnson; going to the University of Maryland Scholars Program

Alayna Nau: from Sienna School; going to the Paul Mitchell Partner School (for cosmetology)

Mikaela Nau: from Walter Johnson with Most Improved Student; going to Radford University in Virginia to study early childhood education

Emma Platais: from Walter Johnson with honors in French and Spanish; going to Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro to study Portuguese and political science for a year, then to the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, for international relations and Hispanic studies

Alex Spinard: from Walter Johnson; going to Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, for marketing psychology

Kendall Strong: from Notre Dame Preparatory School; going to Virginia Tech

College graduates

Maria Bonner: BA in English from Georgetown University, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa; going to Georgetown Law School

Fiona Giblin: BA in communications from Loyola University, New Orleans; currently job hunting

Retton Keating: BBA in finance from Southern Methodist University; working for Freddie Mac

Elizabeth Miller: BA in film and psychology from Washington University in St. Louis; going to grad school at the London Film School, England

Brian Mizoguchi: BA in economics from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York

Taunton Paine: dual MA in international and world history from Columbia University and the London School of Economics; currently job hunting

Tom Ruttkay: MA in art education from the University of Maryland; hopes to teach in the fall

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch, on hiatus in the summer, will resume in September. If you're home during the day, plan to treat yourself to a few hours of breaking bread with your neighbors. If you have never been, give it a try! More of your neighbors have: the Lunch Bunch saw a significant rise in attendance this winter and spring, with fresh faces and new dishes.

The Lunch Bunch normally meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates are September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13. Mark your calendars and join us!

Elizabeth Henley



Come visit the antiques shop on Kensington's Antique Row owned by your Garrett Park neighbor, Margaret Goldsborough. This is recycling at its very best: practical, well made furniture & decorative pieces that have stood the test of time.

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Spring Musicale

The Annual Garrett Park Musicale took place on June 5 this year and raised a record sum in donations to fund another year of music lessons for a local 5th grader. This fun, family-friendly, classical and popular music event is in honor of the late Ilah Gieser, whose inspiration and love of music started the music scholarship program for Garrett Park Elementary School students. Our town Poet Laureate Barbara Shidler was among the Town Singers, who sang special Garrett Park songs written by another resident poet, Margaret Soltan. Here is one she wrote for this year:

The Garrett Park Outage Song
(to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine")

The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed my power came back on.
When I awoke, dear, I was mistaken,
And I sang this sad little song:

Chorus: I'm calling Pepco, my only Pepco,
All Garrett Parkers do this too.
In every season, for any reason,
All our power's down the tubes.

In summer's heat, dear, and winter's coldness,
In autumn's chill, and early spring,
We get out flashlights and boil water
And we wait for Pepco to ring.

I'm gonna buy me a generator,
I'm gonna stockpile batteries,
We're losing power by the hour,
It's the thirteenth century.

Chorus: I'm calling Pepco ...

Summer Jobs List 2011

The Town Office maintains a list of young people interested in doing odd jobs, which is reproduced below. Please call those on the list if you need any of the services offered.

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle* or call the Town Office at 301-933-7488. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include private telephone numbers, private e-mail addresses, or names of minor children in the e-*Bugle*.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

On June 12, the Garrett Park Nursery School and the town of Garrett Park co-hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of renovations to the Garrett Park Community Center. The efforts to preserve this building began almost four years ago when Montgomery County Department of Parks indicated that it no longer wished to maintain the aging structure and sought to demolish or transfer the building. Sunday's ceremony honored those who have helped with the political process of having the building and property transferred into the ownership of the town of Garrett Park, as well as those who are helping to make its renovation a reality.

The Executive Board of the Nursery School awarded certificates of appreciation to the Mayor and Town Council for their vision in recognizing the importance of the building as a community asset and their faith in the nursery school's ability to restore it. Also on hand were Maryland State Senator Jennie Forehand, along with State Delegates Jim Gilchrist, Luiz Simmons, and Al Carr, receiving certificates of appreciation for their help in securing a State of Maryland Bond Bill grant that will pay for nearly a third of the cost of the renovation. Also present were Montgomery County Councilmembers Roger Berliner and Nancy Floreen, who supported the efforts to have the building transferred to the town. The nursery school also recognized the contributions of Mary Bradford, Director of the Department of Parks, and key members of her staff.

Also recognized was the generosity of member groups of the Washington DC Building and Construction Trades Council, who have pledged to donate labor and materials toward the renovation. In particular, the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers (Roofers Local #30) will be replacing the sagging roof of the Community Center. The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, Local Union #10, will be replacing all the duct work in the building. And the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #1 will be doing all the masonry associated with the project.

Finally, the nursery school thanked some of its largest local supporters, like Don Gibbons, whose design/build firm will be doing some interior finish carpentry in the building on a donated basis, and local realtor Kay Hager, who has contributed more than any other individual to the project, despite never having sent a family member to the nursery school.

The renovation of the Garrett Park Community Center is expected to be complete by November 2011. Until then, the nursery school is operating out of the Ken-Gar Recreation Center in Ken-Gar Palisades Park. Although the renovations have begun, the nursery school is still raising funds toward the project in order to repay the loans it will incur in order to complete them. Donations are most welcome.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov

Letter from the Mayor

As I write this month's letter, I have just come from the First Annual Garrett Park Youth Art Show at Town Hall. What a wonderful experience! Children's art is always a delight of spontaneity, color, and imagination, and the art displayed at Town Hall was particularly enjoyable. Art by the older youth was of professional caliber. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Jane Salomon and Vickie Baily, together with the Women's Club and Art at Penn Place Committee, for creating and carrying through this terrific new event for Garrett Park. We look forward to future GP youth art shows.

Another immensely satisfying occasion was the ceremonial groundbreaking on June 12 for renovations at the Community Center. The Community Center and surrounding property (Garrett Park Estates Park) were deeded to the town of Garrett Park in 2010; the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School has raised funds and donations to renovate the Community Center, which has been its home since 1953. Many of the individuals responsible for acquisition of the Community Center and its renovation were in attendance at the groundbreaking. People and companies that are contributing to the renovation by donated services or other means were also recognized. It's difficult to single out individuals for commendation in circumstances of this sort, but in this instance there can be no doubt that without the tireless efforts of four Nursery School representatives—Brenda Artim, Gerilee Bennett, Tara Flynn, and Alison Pearce—neither the acquisition of the Community Center nor its renovation would have been possible. The town is grateful to the Nursery School supporters for their foresight, dedication, and hard work.

Summer is upon us: school is out, swim meets have begun, and we are all spending more time out-of-doors. "Quality of life" issues seem to loom larger in fine weather—especially noise concerns. The town has no noise ordinance for a variety of reasons, including a long-standing sense that we view our little village as one where neighborly interaction is better than rigid regulatory schemes. But times change. Fewer folks have time

to spend on yard work, so landscape maintenance firms—with cadres of ear-splitting motor-driven machines—descend on our streets daily. Other examples abound. Could we each resolve to work a little harder to talk to our neighbors about noise expectations? It's a two-way street: let your neighbors know if you are scheduling noise-generating work such as tree trimming or removal; ask your neighbors to cooperate if you're looking forward to a quiet afternoon for an outdoor party... and the like. Or is it time for Garrett Park to consider opting in to the Montgomery County noise control law? The town exempted itself from the county noise control ordinance many years ago; we can reverse the decision if residents wish to be subject to the county regime. Talk to Town Councilmembers and to me; let your views be known.

Within a few months, various capital improvements and repairs will begin in Garrett Park, including storm drain work and a replacement sidewalk along Kenilworth south of Strathmore, to be completed before the Garrett Park Elementary School reopening. The sidewalk will provide a safer approach to the school and to Town Hall for children and all pedestrians. I want to thank residents in the environs of the school construction, especially residents of the 10800 block of Kenilworth and the 4700 and 4800 blocks of Oxford Street, for their patience and understanding during the school construction and soon-to-be-undertaken sidewalk replacement. Projects of this magnitude involve a fair amount of disruption under the best of circumstances; the town has worked hard to minimize the impact of its own work, but has not always met with cooperation from the large bureaucracies involved in the GPES renovation. Our efforts will continue, however.

In closing, let me wish you a relaxing and pleasant summer. As you travel, please drive carefully... and if in your travels you observe particular examples of other towns' efforts at community enhancement, please don't hesitate to pass them along to us; we're always open to new ideas.

Chris Keller

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GARRETT PARK MD

7:30 a.m. fun run registration · All ages

Penn Place Parking lot.

8 a.m. 2 mile fun run / walk · Penn Place

9:45 a.m. Parade forms · Oxford @ Kenilworth

10:30 a.m. Parade Begins

10:30 a.m. Drop off pies for G.P. Pie throwdown
@ Waverly Park

10:45 a.m. G.P. Pie Throwdown: Judging Begins

1:00 p.m. Pool Events

3:00 p.m. 18th Annual Softball Game
* Ken Gar Local Park · on Beach Drive